

9991. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Alabama Regulatory Program [SPATS No. AL-065-FOR] received June 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9992. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Outer Continental Shelf Beaufort Sea Notice of Leasing Systems, Sale 170—received July 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9993. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Transportation and Utility Systems In and Across, and Access Into, Conservation System Units in Alaska (RIN: 1093-AA07) received July 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9994. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawl Rockfish Fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D. 062498A] received July 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9995. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 061898A] received June 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9996. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Bottomfish Fishery; Fishing Moratorium [Docket No. 980319068-8155-02; I.D. 021998A] (RIN: 0648-AK59) received July 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9997. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting an updated report concerning the emigration laws and policies of Mongolia, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(b); (H. Doc. No. 105-283); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

9998. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Kerosene Tax; Aviation Fuel Tax; Tax on Heavy Trucks and Trailers [T.D. 8774] (RIN: 1545-AW15) received June 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

9999. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Magnetic Media Filing Requirements for Information Returns [TD 8772] (RIN: 1545-AU08) received June 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

10000. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Establishment of the MedicareChoice Program [HCFA-1030-IFC] (RIN: 0938-A129) received June 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

#### ¶67.3 ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced that pursuant to clause 4, rule I, he signed the following enrolled bill on Thursday, June 25, 1998:

H.R. 2646. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

#### ¶67.4 RECESS—9:07 A.M.

The SPEAKER, pursuant to the special order of the House agreed to on July 14, 1998, declared the House in recess at 9 o'clock and 7 minutes a.m., subject to the call of the Chair.

#### ¶67.5 AFTER RECESS—11:17 A.M.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. EWING, called the House to order.

#### ¶67.6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3156. An Act to present a congressional gold medal to Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2870. An Act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 2282) "An act to amend the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes."

#### ¶67.7 PROCEEDINGS DURING RECESS

On motion of Mr. GIBBONS, by unanimous consent, the proceedings had during the recess were ordered to be printed in the Record.

#### ¶67.8 TROPICAL FORESTS CONSERVATION

On motion of Mr. GILMAN, by unanimous consent, the bill (H.R. 2870) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to facilitate protection of tropical forests through debt reduction with developing countries with tropical forests, together with the following amendment of the Senate thereto, was taken from the Speaker's table:

*Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:*

#### **SECTION 1. DEBT REDUCTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH TROPICAL FORESTS.**

*The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

#### **"PART V—DEBT REDUCTION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH TROPICAL FORESTS**

##### **"SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.**

*"This part may be cited as the 'Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998'.*

##### **"SEC. 802. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

*"(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:*

*"(1) It is the established policy of the United States to support and seek protection of tropical forests around the world.*

*"(2) Tropical forests provide a wide range of benefits to humankind by—*

*"(A) harboring a major share of the Earth's biological and terrestrial resources, which are the basis for developing pharmaceutical products and revitalizing agricultural crops;*

*"(B) playing a critical role as carbon sinks in reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, thus moderating potential global climate change; and*

*"(C) regulating hydrological cycles on which far-flung agricultural and coastal resources depend.*

*"(3) International negotiations and assistance programs to conserve forest resources have proliferated over the past decade, but the rapid rate of tropical deforestation continues unabated.*

*"(4) Developing countries with urgent needs for investment and capital for development have allocated a significant amount of their forests to logging concessions.*

*"(5) Poverty and economic pressures on the populations of developing countries have, over time, resulted in clearing of vast areas of forest for conversion to agriculture, which is often unsustainable in the poor soils underlying tropical forests.*

*"(6) Debt reduction can reduce economic pressures on developing countries and result in increased protection for tropical forests.*

*"(7) Finding economic benefits to local communities from sustainable uses of tropical forests is critical to the protection of tropical forests.*

*"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this part are—*

*"(1) to recognize the values received by United States citizens from protection of tropical forests;*

*"(2) to facilitate greater protection of tropical forests (and to give priority to protecting tropical forests with the highest levels of biodiversity and under the most severe threat) by providing for the alleviation of debt in countries where tropical forests are located, thus allowing the use of additional resources to protect these critical resources and reduce economic pressures that have led to deforestation;*

*"(3) to ensure that resources freed from debt in such countries are targeted to protection of tropical forests and their associated values; and*

*"(4) to rechannel existing resources to facilitate the protection of tropical forests.*

#### **"SEC. 803. DEFINITIONS.**

*"As used in this part:*

*"(1) ADMINISTERING BODY.—The term 'administering body' means the entity provided for in section 809(c).*

*"(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—*

*"(A) the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and*

*"(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.*

*"(3) BENEFICIARY COUNTRY.—The term 'beneficiary country' means an eligible country with respect to which the authority of section 806(a)(1), section 807(a)(1), or paragraph (1) or (2) of section 808(a) is exercised.*

*"(4) BOARD.—The term 'Board' means the board referred to in section 811.*

*"(5) DEVELOPING COUNTRY WITH A TROPICAL FOREST.—The term 'developing country with a tropical forest' means—*

*"(A)(i) a country that has a per capita income of \$725 or less in 1994 United States dollars (commonly referred to as 'low-income country'), as determined and adjusted on an annual basis by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in its World Development Report; or*

*"(ii) a country that has a per capita income of more than \$725 but less than \$8,956 in 1994 United States dollars (commonly referred to as*